

Fall 2005

Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission



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A Message from
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

Celebrating the 85th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

Dear Friends:

We've certainly come a long way in 85 years, but while we celebrate our accomplishments, we should also redouble our efforts to insure that women and their families have access to good jobs, quality health care and better representation in government. I want to share with you some of the things my administration has done and some of the things we continue to work on and support. Your efforts and your voices are critical to achieving our shared values and goals. I look forward to continuing to work with you on them.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm

Providing women with meaningful **Economic Opportunities** is critical to insuring that they and their families can enjoy all of the benefits that our society has to offer.

Here's what we've done

- Supported enforcement of equal pay for equal work laws.
- Ensured that every state department, where possible, has policies to support flex time and part time workers so they can be successful in their various roles.
- Supported the "Cool Places to Work" competition of First Gentleman Dan Mulhern, Crain's Detroit Business and the American Society of Employers to recognize Michigan businesses and organizations that have created a family-friendly work environment that allows people to thrive.

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There will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.

Susan B. Anthony

(The Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in 1920.)

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Celebrating Women's Suffrage

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- Created a new non-profit public corporation, Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC), to coordinate state and local efforts to promote early childhood development activities in Michigan. The program will provide opportunities to stimulate and feed children's minds by providing every child the opportunity for high-quality education and care.
- Asked the federal government for an increase in the allowable post-secondary education activities as part of the TANF work requirements to help women and men attain higher paying employment.
- Supported the Office of Career Development's programs to introduce students to career options representative of all career pathways.

Here's what still needs to be done

- An increase in the minimum wage.
- Protect fair affirmative action policies in employment, education and contracting.
- Prevent changes in the Social Security program that adversely impact women who rely on this safety net.
- Establish an Office of Women and Work within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth to gather data, assist women wanting to start a business and provide employers with information and

resources to help them comply with equal pay requirements.

- Oppose further restrictions in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- Oppose weakening Title IX.

Protecting our Health is also key to protecting our futures.

Here's what we've done

- Appointed the nation's first Surgeon General and Chief Nurse to emphasize preventive health and highlight ways girls and women can engage in healthy lifestyles.
- Created a Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies that includes increased access to family planning services for low income women, contraceptive equity—fairness at the pharmacy—for men and women and a new pilot program, "Talk Early, Talk Often," designed to offer parents help in talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues.
- Protected a woman's right to choose.
- Promoted the safety, physical and economic well-being and empowerment of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Here's what needs to be done

- Pass legislation to give victims of crime, such as domestic violence, means to maintain an independent source of income

while participating in the criminal justice process.

- Insured that all health plans in Michigan offer coverage for all necessary and preventive and diagnostic screenings, breast and cervical exams and health and wellness education, such as are available for mammograms.
- Establish a Task Force on Cervical Cancer to raise public awareness about cervical cancer and HPV as well as identifying new opportunities to eliminate this preventable disease.

Opening doors to **Political Participation** means opening doors to every aspect of our society. Michigan has a woman Governor and a woman U.S. Senator, but the number of women in the Michigan legislature has, in fact, declined. And there's more to this than holding office.

Here's what we've done

- The Michigan Women's Commission, working with the National Women's Political Caucus, the League of Women Voters, and other organizations, will provide training

to help women run for political office and participate in campaigns beginning in the fall of 2005.

- The Michigan Women's Commission and the Women's Resource Center at MSU will be hosting a "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference in the spring of 2006 to support mentoring programs for women of tomorrow. This also reflects the Mentor Michigan program headed by First Gentleman Dan Mulhern which ensures that all of our youth have ongoing relationships with stable, caring adults.
- Created a government of inclusion: 22 of the 44 policy leaders in my administration, including department directors, are women.

Here's what still needs to be done

- Election reform proposals such as no reason absentee voting.
- Development and use of a model women's history curriculum as a resource for schools to encourage girls and women to be in leadership positions.

Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

On Tuesday, October 25, the 22nd Annual Awards Dinner of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. This year the contemporary honorees are Margaret Chiara, Esq.; Eva Evans, Ph.D.; Georgia Johnson, M.D.; Lida Mattman, Ph.D.; Olivia Maynard; Senator Debbie Stabenow; Margaret Sellers Walker; Hon. Elizabeth Weaver and Cynthia Yao. The historical honoree is Caroline Thrun, Esq. For more information call (517) 432-4000 or go to the website www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org. *Congratulations to all!*

RUN, GIRL, RUN

Trainings for Women Running for Public Office

The number of women serving in public office in Michigan is declining. These non-partisan workshops are designed to inspire and support women to prepare for public office in an informal and supportive setting. The workshops will provide women the tools needed to get ready to run a campaign and serve in public office.

Who Should Attend

Any woman interested in running for public office, at any level.

Any woman interested in running or working on a political campaign.

Any woman interested in learning more about the political campaign process in Michigan.

Workshop Topics

The workshops are designed to give interested women the tools needed to run for political office on every level:

Why run for public office?

What does it mean to serve?

What do you need to do to get ready to run?

How do you run a campaign?

How do you co-ordinate family issues?

Workshop Dates, Locations and Schedule

There is a \$60 fee to attend the two-day workshop.

Southeast Michigan

Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus
Farmington Hills

Friday, January 20th

Saturday, January 21st

Friday Schedule: Reception/ Workshop 5-9pm

Saturday Schedule: Workshop 8am-3:30pm
(Lunch Included)

West Michigan

Grand Valley State University, Eberhard Center
Grand Rapids

Friday, October 21st

Saturday, October 22nd

Registration Form

Please indicate which workshop you want to attend. Space is limited.

West Michigan: Oct. 21-22 _____

Registration due by October 14th

Southeast Michigan: Jan 20-21 _____

Registration due by January 13th

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Include check/money order for \$60, made payable to:
Michigan Women's Political Caucus

Mail form & check to:
Michigan Women's Commission
110 W. Michigan Ave. St. 800
Lansing, MI 48933

Questions? Call (517) 373-2884

Driving directions will be mailed with your
registration confirmation.

Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies

On July 6, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm unveiled a new pilot program entitled, “Talk Early, Talk Often,” designed to offer parents a resource for talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues. The “Talk Early, Talk Often” pilot is part of the Granholm Administration’s Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies that includes two other initiatives: increased access to family planning services for low income women and contraceptive equity for men and women.

“Parents should be the primary sex educators of their children, and we want to lead the way by giving them the tools they need to talk frankly about issues involving abstinence and sexuality,” Granholm said. “When armed with information and the tools they need to communicate effectively, parents can be instrumental in providing critical messages to their children that can help them abstain from sexual intercourse. By doing so, they can help them avoid early and unintended pregnancy as well as the threat of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

“If all pregnancies were intended, the state would see significant reductions in infant mortality, child abuse, child neglect, and abortion,” Granholm added.

The Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association (MPTSA) has been instrumental in the creation of the pilot program, which will be shared with parents in a series of school district-sponsored meetings this fall.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has submitted a request to obtain federal approval for a waiver to expand eligibility for family planning services for low-income families. The waiver would ensure that all men and women of child bearing age have access to family planning services by expanding Medicaid eligibility to low-income women of child bearing age without insurance coverage.

It is estimated that each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$3 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related care and medical care for newborns, according to national Medicaid research.

Finally, Granholm said that all women and men should have ready access to the full range of contraceptive options, thus increasing the likelihood that each sexually active man or woman has an available contraceptive method that is most convenient and which she/he is willing to use.

Granholm said she supports passing contraceptive equity legislation. Senators Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) and Martha Scott (D-Highland Park) have introduced Senate Bills 431 and 432 that, if passed, would require insurers who provide prescription drug coverage to include all U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved contraceptives.

“Unintended pregnancy is an issue that affects public health, our economy, and our society, because one way or another, we are all affected by its impact,” said Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Michigan Surgeon General. “Working together, we can ensure that every pregnancy is an intended pregnancy.”

The Michigan Department of Community Health’s Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS - a survey of maternal experiences and behaviors before and during a woman’s pregnancy) data for the year 2001 shows that 40.6 percent of pregnancies were unintended.



The total cost to Medicaid for the delivery of a baby and first year of life is \$11,528 – with the cost of delivery averaging \$6,197 and the cost of first year of life services averaging \$5,331. In FY 2000, the state Medicaid program paid for prenatal, delivery and post-natal care of roughly 26,000 unintended births. Each birth cost Medicaid \$11,000, which translates to \$286 million in costs for Michigan.

If Michigan can reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by 10 percent, it would save the state over \$27 million in Medicaid expenditures annually.



Talk Early & Talk Often

Parents play a very important role in whether their teenagers become pregnant or cause a pregnancy. **Talk Early & Talk Often** is an effort to give parents of middle school students the tools they need to talk to their children about the important issue of sexuality.

Parents are the primary sex educators of their children. When given the information and tools, parents can be instrumental in providing critical messages to their children that can help them abstain from sexual intercourse and avoid HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and early pregnancy.

Talk Early & Talk Often is a pilot project to help parents of middle school youth develop the skills necessary to talk with their children about abstinence and sexuality. The Michigan Department of Education has worked closely with Michigan Department of Community Health, Parent Action for Healthy Kids, and other state agency partners to develop the program. Sixty workshops will be held across the state between September 15 and December 15, 2005. The 90 minute workshop will be lead by trained facilitators who have experience working with parents. The objectives of the workshop are to help parents gain knowledge and skills needed to communicate with their child about abstinence and sexuality and provide opportunities to practice communicating about such issues. To learn more about the initiative and find out about becoming a host site, go to www.michigan.gov/miparentresources. Once the schedule of town hall meetings is complete, it will be available on the web site.

Cut it Out Program



Salons Against Domestic Abuse

The September 14th Michigan Women's Commission meeting will serve as the kickoff for the Cut it Out program in Michigan. Cut

it Out is a nationwide program, currently operating in more than ten states, whose aim is to provide information to salon professionals about the signs of domestic violence, so that they can, in turn, provide information to those clients who might be in potentially abusive relationships. The Women's Commission will be passing out information packets for distribution in

salons at the September meeting. For more information about the program, please visit the website at www.cutitout.org.

Special Notice

On Friday, August 12, former Michigan Senator Lorraine Beebe died. In 1968, then State Senator Lorraine Beebe was the author of the enabling statute for the Michigan Women's Commission, PA 1 of 1968.

When the permanent Commission was created in 1968, it immediately set forth to improve the quality of life for Michigan women. That year, Governor Milliken appointed 15 members, as well as ex officio members from the Departments of Education, Social Services, Labor and Civil Service. The new Commission held its first meeting on September 11, 1969. Betty Finegan chaired that inaugural meeting, and the Governor addressed the Commission.

The Commission's first project was to hold a state wide public forum in 1970 to determine what issues were a priority for Michigan women. In 1971, Lorraine Beebe appointed its Chair. Lorraine Beebe served as chair until 1973 but throughout her life continued to advocate for women's issues.

Thank you, Lorraine!

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CALENDAR

October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (www.ncadv.org) & Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.org)

October 21 – 22 – Running For Office Training, Grand Rapids (see article inside)

October 25, Tuesday – Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Dinner, East Lansing, for more information call (517) 432-4000

November 2, Wednesday – Catch Your Breath: Women and Lung Health Conference and Luncheon presented by the American Lung Association of Michigan, Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (www.alam.org/cyb.htm)

December 14, Wednesday – MI Women's Commission Meeting, 110 West Michigan, Lansing, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (www.michigan.gov/mdcr)

(For more information, see MI Women's Calendar, www.michigan.gov/mdcr)

Mailing List Update

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